



FLORIDA KEYS

National Weather Service

Forecast Office

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WETTEST SEPTEMBER ON RECORD FOR MARATHON – SINCE 1982
5TH WETTEST SEPTEMBER FOR KEY WEST IN PAST THREE DECADES
VERY WET END TO THE MONTH FOR THE MIDDLE AND UPPER KEYS

WHILE THE LAST TWO DAYS OF SEPTEMBER WERE ESPECIALLY WET FOR THE MIDDLE AND UPPER KEYS...IT WAS A WET MONTH OVERALL ALONG THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN. THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT ENDED THE MONTH WITH A TOTAL OF 13.71 INCHES OF RAINFALL...ALMOST 8 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL FOR SEPTEMBER. SEVERAL SOAKING DAYS EARLY IN SEPTEMBER ASSISTED IN BOOSTING TOTAL RAINFALL AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO 8.92 INCHES...WHICH IS ABOUT 3.5 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL.

THESE VALUES PLACED LAST MONTH AS THE WETTEST SEPTEMBER RECORDED FOR THE MARATHON AREA SINCE DATA COLLECTION BEGAN BACK IN 1982. THE RAINFALL IN KEY WEST ALSO ENTERED RECENT HISTORY AS IT TAKES THE TITLE OF 5TH WETTEST SEPTEMBER IN THE PAST 30 YEARS. SEPTEMBER 1994 REMAINS THE WETTEST IN THE PAST 30 YEARS WITH 13.00 INCHES OF RAINFALL...AND 18.45 INCHES BACK IN SEPTEMBER 1963 CONTINUES ITS REIGN AS THE WETTEST ON RECORD FOR KEY WEST GOING BACK TO 1871.

RAINFALL ON THE 28TH AND 29TH WAS THE RESULT OF A BROAD AREA OF LOW PRESSURE OVER THE FLORIDA STRAITS INTERACTING WITH A FRONT EXTENDING SOUTHWARD ALONG THE FLORIDA PENINSULA. THE LOW MOVED NORTH ACROSS CUBA FROM THE WESTERN CARIBBEAN SEA AND THEN PROGRESSED ALONG THE STRAITS UNTIL EVENTUALLY BEING ABSORBED INTO THE FRONTAL ZONE. FLOODING DID OCCUR ON LOWER AND UPPER MATECUMBE KEYS...BUT NO MAJOR DAMAGE WAS REPORTED.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE END OF MONTH RAINFALL TOTALS FOR THE 28TH AND 29TH SHOWS THE THREE HIGHEST AMOUNTS REPORTED WERE 12.71 INCHES FROM A NORTH KEY LARGO HANDAR STATION...12.28 INCHES FROM AN ISLAMORADA COCORAH'S SITE...AND 10.91 INCHES FROM A LONG KEY RAIN GAGE.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WERE JUST SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL...0.1 AND 0.9 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT RESPECTIVELY FOR KEY WEST AND MARATHON. SEPTEMBER AVERAGED 83.5 AT THE KEY WEST AIRPORT AND 83.8 DEGREES AT THE MARATHON AIRPORT. THIS IS IN CONSIDERABLE CONTRAST TO SEPTEMBER 2009 FOR KEY WEST...WHICH RANKED AS THE 8TH WARMEST SEPTEMBER ON RECORD WITH A MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 84.7

DEGREES. THE WARMEST SEPTEMBER IS STILL 1989...WHEN THE MERCURY AVERAGED 85.1 DEGREES FOR THE MONTH.

BELOW ARE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER ALONG THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN...COMPARING 2010 TO 2009 AND THE DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE. DATA FROM 2009 WAS NOT READILY AVAILABLE FOR COMPARISONS AT ALL SITES.

SEPTEMBER 2010 RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL/2009 IN INCHES

Station – Station Type	2010	Dep. fm Normal	2009	Dep. fm 2009
Dry Tortugas National Park – <i>COOP</i>	5.71		3.41	+2.30
Key West WFO – <i>NWS</i>	8.13	+2.68	5.38	+2.75
Key West International Airport – <i>ASOS</i>	8.92	+3.47	5.31	+3.61
Key West (NE side) – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	9.11	+3.66	6.57	+2.54
Big Coppitt Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	9.57		5.61	+3.96
Cudjoe Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	9.39			
Cudjoe Key – <i>Citizen Observer</i>	8.70		6.00	+2.70
Ramrod Key – <i>Citizen Observer</i>	6.46			
Bahia Honda State Park – <i>COOP *</i>	10.92		3.33	+7.59
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – <i>ASOS</i>	13.71	+7.81	7.12	+6.59
Curry Hammock State Park – <i>COOP</i>	13.85	+7.95	3.62	+10.23
Duck Key – <i>COOP</i>	11.61	+5.71	6.48	+5.13
Islamorada – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	21.92		6.68	+15.24
Islamorada – <i>COOP</i>	15.41		8.88	+6.53
Islamorada – <i>Citizen Observer</i>	14.33			
John Pennekamp State Park – <i>COOP *</i>	10.81		7.58	+3.23
Tavernier – <i>COOP</i>	11.09			
Key Largo – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	10.11		14.10	-3.99

*INCOMPLETE TOTAL FOR BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK...2 DAYS MISSING.

*INCOMPLETE TOTAL FOR JOHN PENNEKAMP STATE PARK...HEAVY-RAIN-EVENT-DAY MISSING.

NORMAL VALUES FOR KEY WEST LOCATIONS ARE THE AVERAGE OF 1979-2000 AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...AND FOR THE MARATHON AREA THEY ARE THE AVERAGE SPANNING 1982-2004 AT DUCK KEY. RECORDS ARE NOT YET TRACKED AT THE MARATHON AIRPORT DUE TO THE SHORT PERIOD OF ASOS DATA.